

NEWS RELEASE
GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK
STATE OF MONTANA

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Governor Bullock, Larry Simkins and Bill Johnstone Release Business Plan for Montana
Plan Was Developed through Bullock's Main Street Montana Project

HELENA – Today, with events in Billings and Helena, Governor Steve Bullock and Main Street Montana Project co-chairs Larry Simkins and Bill Johnstone released the business plan for Montana that the Project developed over the last 10 months. The plan aims to boost job creation, encourage business expansion and improve wages in the state.

"This is a business plan for Montana, by Montanans," Bullock said. "With the input from business and labor leaders, educators, entrepreneurs and economic development specialists, we now have a plan that will allow Montana's economy to continue to grow for years to come."

The plan is based around five pillars for economic growth in the state:

- Train and educate tomorrow's workforce today
- Create a climate that attracts, retains, and grows businesses
- Build upon Montana's economic foundation
- Market Montana
- Nurture emerging industries and encourage innovation

In addition, the plan contains in-depth analysis of the economic situation in Indian Country and each of Montana's geographic regions.

"When we started this Project we made it clear that it would be private-sector driven, non-partisan and ground-up," Simkins said. "This plan reflects those principles and provides a strong path forward for Montana's economy."

To implement the plan, the Project will convene "Key Industry Networks," made up of private-sector leaders in each of the industries highlighted in the report. These networks will work with members of the Governor's administration on completing the specific tasks outlined in the plan.

“As the first phase of the Project ends and a new one begins, the input from private sector businesses and workers, through our Key Industry Networks will be increasingly important,” Johnstone said. “Working together, I’m confident that we’ll accomplish the tasks that are laid out in this plan.”

Simkins and Johnstone will continue to oversee the implementation of the plan, to ensure objectives are complete and goals are met in a timely fashion. The Project will produce an annual report, updating Montanans on work that is accomplished, tasks still to be completed, and new opportunities and challenges facing the state.

Last year, Bullock tapped Simkins and Johnstone to lead the Main Street Montana Project. Since then, through a series of roundtable discussions, community surveys and individual meeting, Simkins and Johnstone have heard from thousands of Montanans, from all corners of the state.

The plan is available at: www.MainStreetMontanaProject.com. Also available on the website, is a Data Dashboard that contains data collected through the process of developing the plan.

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